

Observations of Comet II. 1867. By C. G. Talmage, Esq.

I beg to enclose observations of Comet II. (Tempel's) made at this Observatory.

	G.M.T.			Comet's R.A.			Comet's Decl.			No. of Obs.
	h	m	s	h	m	s	°	'	"	
1867, April 29	12	3	10.21	15	7	56.43	— 1	56	49.80	3
30	12	0	37.81	15	7	53.00	— 1	59	5.4	3
May 1	11	20	21.14	15	7	44.27	— 2	1	29.4	3
3	12	29	18.01	15	7	22.92	— 2	7	50.5	5
4	10	16	21.22	15	7	10.90	— 2	10	53.8	5
5	10	13	40.52	15	6	59.00	— 2	14	34.4	5
6	11	10	30.32	15	6	46.80	— 2	19	4.3	3

The comparison star from April 29 to May 3 was *Weisse Hora* 15, No. 119, and for May 4, 5, and 6, *Weisse Hora* 15, No. 125.

On May 4 the Comet was very faint and difficult of observation, through clouds.

On May 3, with a power of 250, the nucleus appeared to me to have a division across its centre.

The power used for all the measures was 130, with dark field and illuminated wires.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Uebersicht der Thätigkeit der Nicolai-Hauptsternwarte während der ersten 25 Jahre ihres Bestehens; zusammengestellt von Otto Struve. 4to. St. Petersburg, 1865, pp. 1-119.

The history of the foundation of the Pulkova Observatory is given in the *Description de l'Observatoire Astronomique central de Poulkova* (1845); and the part which the Emperor Nicholas personally took therein is more fully shown in a smaller work by the late W. Struve, at the time when after the death of the founder, the Institution, by command of the present Emperor, assumed its present designation. The objects of the foundation are, in the Statute of 14 June, 1838, declared to be—

(a) To furnish without intermission, and as perfectly as possible, Observations for the furtherance of Astronomy as a science;

(b) To set on foot corresponding observations for geographical undertakings in the Empire, and scientific explorations;

(c) As far as possible to contribute to the perfecting of

Practical Astronomy in its applications to Geography and Navigation, and to afford opportunities for the practice of the determination of geographical positions. And in a subsequent paragraph the obligation is imposed upon it, as a central Institution, to exercise a control over the works undertaken by the remaining Observatories of the Empire, so that science may derive therefrom the greatest possible benefit. And these are substantially the objects under the present statute, formally confirmed on the 14th August, 1862, but which has been partly in operation since the year 1857. By this statute the staff was augmented, the Institution placed directly under the Minister of Public Instruction, and a "Comité" instituted analogous to the Greenwich Board of Visitors.

The volume contains notices of the Personal of the Institution; it is mentioned that Mr. Otto Struve is the only one of the officials who has been in the Observatory uninterruptedly from its foundation. The directorship of W. Struve, in his full vigour, continued till the year 1857; during the next two years, on his partial retirement from commencing ill health, Mr. Otto Struve was Vice-Director; and upon his final retirement in 1861, Mr. Otto Struve became Director. The bulk of the volume is occupied with a survey of the work of the Observatory during the 25 years under the three heads,—I. Astronomy; II. Geography and Geodesy; III. Instruction. It concludes with a Catalogue of the published writings of the Pulkova Astronomers during the period in question (1839 to 1864). These include Stellar Astronomy, 1 to 48; Observation and Investigations on the Solar System, 49 to 89; Practical Astronomy, 90 to 103; Geodesy, 104 to 124; Geographical Position-determinations, 125 to 139, and History, Bibliography, Physical Investigations, &c., 139 to 159. It is needless to refer to the many well-known works by W. Struve, O. Struve, Peters, Döllén, Weisse, Winnecke, &c., &c., included in this enumeration.

Annals of the Dudley Observatory. Vol. i. 8vo. Albany, 1866.

The volume contains an account of the foundation of the Institution; a description of the Observatory and Instruments, by G. W. Hough, A.M., the Director; and an Appendix. The establishment of the Institution was first proposed, in 1851, by Dr. J. H. Armsby; a subscription was raised, a large part of which was contributed by Mrs. Blandina Dudley, widow of the Honourable C. E. Dudley, and it was thereupon resolved to give to the institution the name of the Dudley Observatory. The Act of Incorporation was granted by the Legislature of the State of New York, in March, 1852. The building was